

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 DRC-01 /169 W

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R 030100Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1524

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

USUN NEW YORK 946

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DACCA 5208

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, BG

SUBJECT: BDG GRANTS AMNESTY TO COLLABORATORS

1. NOVEMBER 30 BDG DECLINED GENERAL AMNESTY FOR COLLABORATORS EXCEPT THOSE SPECIFICALLY ACCUSED OF MURDER, RAPE, AND ARSON. COLLABORATORS WILL BE RELEASED BEFORE DECEMBER 16 IN ORDER TO JOIN IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL DAY THAT DATE. AMONG THOSE APPARENTLY QUALIFIED FOR RELEASE ARE FORMER GOVERNOR MALIK, SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE, AND HIS CABINET.

2. ACCORDING BDG PRESS NOTICE PUBLISHED DACCA PAPERS TODAY, BDG HAS GRANTED CLEMENCY TO ALL THOSE CONVICTED OF ANY OFFENCE UNDER THE 1972 COLLABORATORS ORDER, AND HAS ORDERED THE DISMISSAL OF ALL CASES AND INVESTIGATIONS NOW PENDING. AMNESTY DOES NOT EXTEND TO THOSE CONVICTED OR ACCUSED, UNDER COLLABORATORS ORDER, OF MURDER, RAPE, OR "MISCHIEF BY FIRE OR OTHER EXPLOSIVES," OR TO THOSE WANTED FOR OFFENCES UNDER OTHER LAWS. PERSONS CONVICTED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABSENTIA OR FOR WHOM ARREST WARRANTS EXIST WILL BE AMNESTIED ONLY

AFTER SURRENDERING TO THE COURT AND MAKING A PRAYER FOR CLEMENCY
AND A DECLARATION OF ALLEGIANCE TO BANGLADESH.

3. IN PRESS CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT HOME MINISTER MALEK UKIL SAID
THAT GENERAL AMNESTY WOULD COVER ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF THOSE
DETAINED AS COLLABORATORS. SOME CONFUSION IN PRESS ACCOUNTS AS TO
NUMBERS INVOLVED. MALEK WAS REPORTED AS SAYING, IN SOME ACCOUNTS,
THAT 36 TO 37,000 HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AS COLLABORATORS.
OTHER PAPERS QUOTE HIM AS SAYING CHARGES ARE PENDING AGAINST
THAT MANY. AN UNIDENTIFIED HOME MINISTRY SPOKESMAN IN ONE PAPER
WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT AMNESTY WOULD NOT APPLY TO THOSE WHO
HAD LOST THEIR CITIZENSHIP.

4. IN SEPARATE MESSAGE, PRIME MINISTER MUJIB SAID THAT HE SINCERELY
HOPED THAT "THOSE WHO HAD WORKED AGAINST THE GREATER INTEREST OF
OUR NATION WILL NOW REPENT...AND COME FORWARD TO WORK FOR BUILDING
THE NATION AS LOYAL CITIZENS." NOTING THAT THE COLLABORATORS WERE
IN DETENTION FOR A LONG TIME, MUJIB SAID THAT HE BELIEVEI THEY
HAD REPENTED AND WANTED TO START A NEW LIFE. REFERRING TO THE
DIFFICULTIES CAUSED TO FAMILY MEMBERS, MUJIB ALSO SAID THAT HE
DID NOT WANT TO DEPRIVE THESE PEOPLE OF THE FRUITS OF LIBERATION.
WITH THE AMNESTY, MUJIB CONTINUED, ALL BENGALEES, IRRESPECTIVE
OF PARTY AFFILIATIONS, COULD TAKE A FRESH VOW TO DEDICATE
THEMSELVES TO THE SERVICE OF THE NATION.
NEWBERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, POLITICAL CRIMES, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973DACCA05208
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731250/aaaabknw.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BDG GRANTS AMNESTY TO COLLABORATORS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005